

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 34 were examined. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 27, 28, 30 and 32 have been amended. Claim 34 was canceled. Claims 1-33 now stand in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 27, 28, 30 and 32 have been amended by deleting the phrase, "or suspected of containing".

Claim 2 was amended by deleting the phrase, "wherein the multitude of steroid hormones are selected from the group consisting of cortisol, 11-deoxycortisol, androstenedione, 17-OH progesterone, progesterone, allopregnanolone, and".

Claim 34 was canceled.

Claim objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 27, 28, 30, 32 and 34 requesting that the phrase "or suspected of containing" be deleted from the claims because if the sample being analyzed is only suspected of containing a multitude of steroid hormones, then the step of analyzing the hormones would not occur.

Applicant deleted the phrase "or suspected of containing" from claims 1, 27, 28, 30, 32 and 34 as requested by the Examiner. Applicant also deleted this phrase from claims 3 and 9. The objection has been overcome.

The Examiner objected to the phrase in claim 2 which reads, "wherein the multitude of steroid hormones are selected from the group consisting of cortisol, 11-deoxycortisol, androstenedione, 17-OH progesterone, progesterone, allopregnanolone, and". The Examiner states that this phrase no longer makes proper sense with the amendment made to claim 2 in the response received March 5, 2008.

Applicant deleted this phrase as requested by the Examiner. The objection has been overcome.

Nonstatutory Obviousness-type double patenting rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 and 21-27 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 28, 30-36, 38-55 and 57 of copending 10/823,690.

Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Applicant also submits under separate cover, an assignment from Steven J. Soldin to Georgetown University to be registered against 10/823,690. Applicant submitted the assignment on October 24, 2005, however the USPTO has no record of the assignment.

Claim rejections 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 34 as being obvious with regard to Alary in view of Draisci et al.

In an effort to expedite examination, Applicant canceled claim 34.

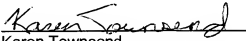
Applicant believes that all of the issues addressed in the outstanding Action have been addressed in this response, and thus request allowance of the application.

- 11 -

In the event that any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (416) 865-7387 with any proposal to advance prosecution.

Yours very truly,

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Date


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